

OJSC NOVOSIBIRSK REFINERY PLANT

NOVOSIBIRSK, SIBERIA
RUSSIAN FEDERATION

LOCATION

The **Novosibirsk Refinery Plant**, Russia's legendary gold refining and bar manufacturing plant during the USSR period, has its headquarters and gold refinery in the city of Novosibirsk in Siberia.

Novosibirsk (which means "New Siberia") is Russia's third largest city and the capital of the Federal District of Siberia. It is located across the banks of the Ob river, approximately 3,000 km east of Moscow.

The plant, established in 1941, manufactures London Good Delivery 400 oz bars and a standard range of 6 small cast bars and 5 minted bars:

Cast: 400 oz, 1000 g, 500 g, 250 g, 100 g, 50 g, 20 g

Minted: 100 g, 50 g, 20 g, 10 g, 5 g

ACCREDITATION

1999* London Bullion Market Association (LBMA)

* Although the Novosibirsk Refinery Plant was accredited to the LBMA under this name in 1999, it had previously manufactured London Good Delivery 400 oz bars as a USSR/Russian State Refinery since 1941.

BACKGROUND

The company's origins date back to the Great Patriotic War (1941-1945), when Russian gold refining and bar manufacture in Moscow was transferred to Novosibirsk in 1941.

At the start of the war, the State Refinery in Moscow, whose 400 oz bars had been accepted by the London Gold Market since 1937, was the major gold refinery in the USSR. In July 1941, however, the plant was dismantled and by October had resumed operations at the Novosibirsk Refinery Plant's current site in Kirov Street.

Over the next 49 years, from 1941 until 1990, the plant manufactured almost all of the USSR's London Good Delivery 400 oz bars, producing at its peak more than 300 tonnes in a single year during the 1980s. It produced these bars from gold mined not only in Russia but also in other USSR republics, notably Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan.

In 1990, the company (then known as the "Novosibirsk Non-Ferrous Metals Plant") was officially closed down, when much of its equipment was transferred to the Prioksky Non-Ferrous Metals Plant, which had been established in 1989 in the Ryazan region, about 300 km east of Moscow.

However, the company was re-established in late 1990, mainly with new equipment, and since 1992 has been known as the Novosibirsk Refinery Plant.



The legendary Novosibirsk refinery was established during the Great Patriotic War in 1941.



For 49 years almost all of the USSR's London Good Delivery bars were manufactured at Novosibirsk.



The Novosibirsk refinery was accredited to the LBMA under its own name in 1999.



The company, which is wholly owned by the Government of the Russian Federation, became an Open Joint Stock Company (OJSC) in 2003. This status means that it is controlled by a Board of Directors and can operate with much flexibility.

Apart from gold refining, the recycling of scrap and the manufacture of bars, it focuses on gold products for the jewellery industry (mainly granules), while also providing gold in various forms for the electronics, dental and other industries.

GOLD REFINING

The plant has the capacity to refine mine doré (gold and silver), electrolytic slimes (derived from copper and silver), precipitated gold slimes, loaded carbon and most forms of scrap gold. Newly-mined gold is obtained mainly from the Siberian and Far Eastern regions.

Gold refining methods include electro-chemical and wet chemical parting from impurities, and smelting in inductive electric furnaces.

The company also refines platinum group metals and silver, manufacturing a range of platinum, palladium and silver bars.

Annual gold refining capacity: around 300 tonnes.

Number of employees: 180

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION – CURRENT BARS

Weight	Type	Fineness	Shape	Dimensions mm	First Issued*	Serial Number System	System Introduced
400 oz	Cast	999.9, 999.8	Rectangular	254 x 88 x 35 229 x 59 (base)	1996	2 letters Plus 4 numbers Plus year date	1990** 1996
1000 g	Cast	999.9	Rectangular	113 x 51 x 10	1996	2 letters Plus 4 numbers	1996
500 g	Cast	999.9	Rectangular	83.5 x 37 x 10	1996	2 letters Plus 4 numbers	1996
250 g	Cast	999.9	Rectangular	60 x 29 x 8	1996	2 letters Plus 4 numbers	1996
100 g	Cast	999.9	Rectangular	40 x 21 x 7	1996	2 letters Plus 4 numbers	1996
50 g	Cast	999.9	Rectangular	31.2 x 16.5 x 4	1996	2 letters Plus 4 numbers	1996
20 g	Cast	999.9	Rectangular	25 x 11.6 x 3.5	1996	2 letters Plus 4 numbers	1996
100 g	Minted	999.9	Rectangular	56.3 x 32.1 x 2.96	1999	2 letters Plus 4 numbers	1999
50 g	Minted	999.9	Rectangular	48 x 28 x 2.9	1999	2 letters Plus 4 numbers	1999
20 g	Minted	999.9	Rectangular	32 x 18 x 1.8	1999	2 letters Plus 4 numbers	1999
10 g	Minted	999.9	Rectangular	24 x 14 x 1.6	1999	2 letters Plus 4 numbers	1999
5 g	Minted	999.9	Rectangular	22 x 13 x 0.9	1999	2 letters Plus 4 numbers	1999

Source: Novosibirsk Refinery Plant. * Refers to the dates when the company's bars were first marked with its own official stamp. ** The "1990" date refers to the date of the company's re-establishment.



Kilobars have been manufactured since 1967.



The company also has the capacity to produce cast bars of any weight, if requested.

It has manufactured customized cast and minted bars for banks since 1999.

Serial Numbering System

All bars: 2 letters in the Cyrillic alphabet and 4 numbers ranged from 0001 up to 9999.

400 oz bars: 1st letter is the "H" only, which stands for Novosibirsk Refinery Plant. 2nd letter is arbitrary, changed at the beginning of each year or when more than 9,999 bars have been produced.

1000 g and smaller bars: both letters are arbitrary. They change at the beginning of each year or when more than 9,999 bars have been produced.

On minted bars (from 5 g up to 100 g), the serial numbering system is stamped on the reverse side.

HISTORY OF GOLD BAR MANUFACTURE

The company has manufactured 400 oz bars continuously since 1941, apart from a brief period around 1990.

Between 1967 and 1990, a range of small bars, bearing the USSR ("СССР") official stamp, were manufactured.

Cast: 1000 g, 500 g, 250 g, 100 g, 50 g, 20 g
Minted: 20 g, 10 g

In the 1980s, it is reported that customized kilobars were also manufactured for export by The Bank for Foreign Economic Affairs of the USSR (known earlier as The Bank for Foreign Trade).

In 1996, the current range of 7 cast bars, marked with Russia's national official stamp and the company's own official stamp, was issued.

In 1999, the range of 5 minted bars was issued.

TRADE COMMUNICATION

Headquarters

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OFFICIAL STAMPS



On all bars issued by the Novosibirsk Refinery Plant since 1996.



The national stamp in Russian or English. In use since 1996.



Assaying gold.

НОВОСИБИРСКИЙ АФФИНАЖНЫЙ ЗАВОД 



EXAMPLES OF SMALL GOLD BARS



1000 g



500 g



50 g



10 g



Small bars, packed in wooden boxes, for transportation.

Novosibirsk has been the largest manufacturer of small gold bars (1000 g and less) in the Russian Federation in recent years.



LONDON GOOD DELIVERY 400 OZ BAR



Most 400 oz bars are manufactured to a fineness of 999.9.



Manufacturing 400 oz bars.



Gold granules for the jewellery industry.



HISTORICAL LONDON GOOD DELIVERY 400 OZ BAR



Manufactured at the Novosibirsk refinery during the USSR period.



Novosibirsk applied the USSR ("СССР") official stamp to 400 oz bars from 1947 until 1996.



The Novosibirsk refinery in the 1970s.

During the USSR period, it manufactured London Good Delivery bars from gold mined not only in Russia but also in other USSR republics, notably Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan.

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